

Olana (Frederic Edwin Church House)
State Route 9G
Hudson
Columbia County
New York

HABS No. NY-5501

HABS
NY,
11-HUD
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE NEW YORK	COUNTY COLUMBIA	TOWN OR VICINITY HUDSON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) OLANA		HABS NO. NY-5501
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Church, Frederic Edwin, House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) State Route 9G, east end of Rip Van Winkle Bridge. The mansion overlooks the upper Hudson River Valley south of Albany.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1870-1874	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Frederic Edwin Church; Calvert Vaux; Frederick Law Olmsted	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Olana was lived in by and designed in large part by Frederic Edwin Church, famous American painter of the Hudson River School. The mansion, a total environment structure, is a combination of Western and Near Eastern architecture. (continued to next page)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) See Significance		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stone and wood.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Erratic oblong layout. The dimensions for the first floor are approximately 120' X 81'. The dimensions for the upper floors are different. See drawings.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Polychromatic exterior. Moorish features. Towers, porches and gazebos have brightly colored tiles and painted brickwork. See photographs.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Likewise decorated in the Moorish manner. See photographs.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The studio wing was added to the right side of the original structure in 1888-1889, under Church's direction.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Excellent. Open to the public as a historic house museum.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Olana was entered on the National Historic Landmarks on June 22, 1965. Outbuildings include Coach House, Barn, Horse Barn, Pump House and Farmhouse.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) New York Times. "College to be Erected on Historic River Site Upstate," September 7, 1971.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)		DATE September 21, 1983

SIGNIFICANCE (continued from page one):

Church and his wife toured Europe and the Near East. As a result of these visits, Church incorporated architectural versions of the two different parts of the world in his design for a new home. The styling of his house is largely Moorish. The design includes several Persian themes which Church called "personal Persian."

Architect Calvert Vaux had a supervisory role in the design; he also drew plans for the 37-room mansion. The vastly sculptured landscaping design was done by Frederick Law Olmsted.

At the time of Church's death in 1900, his estate was in an unfinished state. The artist liked to improve or change the visual effects of his place.

In 1860 Church moved to his property and lived in a small cottage. Construction of Olana was started in 1870 and finished in 1874. Following Church's death, his family continued to live in the estate until 1964, when the widow of Church's son died. New York State later bought the mansion and its land, and opened the mansion to the public in 1967. 143 acres of land was given to Columbia-Greene Community College for a new campus site.

The college's main building, which has since been built, features an interesting design that harmonizes with the nearby Olana. The colors of the exterior are similar- cream, rust and dark brown. Light green roof tiles and black frames for the doors and windows echo Olana. Edgar Tafel, a well-known architect and a Wright disciple, designed this building.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Addendum to:

OLANA

(Frederick Edwin Church House)

State Route 9G

Hudson

Columbia County

New York

HABS No. NY-5501

HABS

NY

11-440

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Addendum to:

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Data pages 1 and 2 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.
This is data page 3.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

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- 8 5" x 7" glass plate negatives (4 stereopairs) produced by
Perry E. Borchers of the Ohio State University in 1971.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey control
information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-801L	SW CORNER--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-801R *	SW CORNER--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 95%
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-802L *	SW CORNER--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-802R	SW CORNER--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 95%

LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-803L *	EAST PORTION OF SOUTH FACADE--LEVEL
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-803R	EAST PORTION OF SOUTH FACADE--LEVEL
	Left and right overlap: 90%
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-804L	EAST PORTION OF SOUTH FACADE--INCLINED
LC-HABS-GS05-B-1971-804R *	EAST PORTION OF SOUTH FACADE---INCLINED
	Left and right overlap: 90%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.